

Subpart A—General

§ 3401.1 Applicability of regulations of this part.

(a) The regulations of this part apply to rangeland research grants awarded under the authority of section 1480 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3333) to land-grant colleges and universities, State agricultural experiment stations, and colleges, universities, and Federal laboratories having a demonstrable capacity in rangeland research, as determined by the Secretary, to carry out rangeland research. The Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) shall determine and announce, through publication each year of a Notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, professional trade journals, agency or program handbooks, the catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance or any other appropriate means, research program areas for which proposals will be solicited, to the extent that funds are available.

(b) The regulations of this part do not apply to research grants awarded by the Department of Agriculture under any other authority.

§ 3401.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Director* means the Director of NIFA and any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to whom the authority involved may be delegated.

(b) *Department* means the Department of Agriculture.

(c) *Principal investigator* means a single individual designated by the grantee in the application for funding and approved by the Director who is responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project.

(d) *Grantee* means the entity designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to whom a grant is awarded under this part.

(e) *Research project grant* means the award by the Director of funds to a grantee to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to establish, discover, elucidate, or confirm informa-

tion or the underlying mechanisms relating to a research program area identified in the annual solicitation of applications.

(f) *Project* means the particular activity within the scope of one or more of the research program areas identified in the annual solicitation of applications, which is supported by a grant award under this part.

(g) *Project period* means the total length of time that is approved by the Director for conducting the research project as outlined in an approved application for funding.

(h) *Budget period* means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

(i) *Awarding official* means the Director and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority to issue or modify research project grant instruments has been delegated.

(j) *Peer review group* means an assembled group of experts or consultants qualified by training or experience in particular scientific or technical fields to give expert advice, in accordance with the provisions of this part, on the scientific and technical merit of applications for funding in those fields.

(k) *Ad hoc reviewers* means experts or consultants qualified by training or experience in particular scientific or technical fields to render special expert advice, whose written evaluations of applications for funding are designed to complement the expertise of the peer review group, in accordance with the provisions of this part, on the scientific or technical merit of applications for funding in those fields.

(l) *Research* means any systematic study directed toward new or fuller knowledge and understanding of the subject studied.

(m) *Methodology* means the project approach to be followed and the resources needed to carry out the project.

§ 3401.3 Eligibility requirements.

(a) Except where otherwise prohibited by law, any land-grant college and university, State agricultural experiment station, and college, university,